

II. REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending, claims 11-12 are allowed, and claims 24-43 are cancelled. The Applicant's attorney, Bryan Santarelli, has amended claims 1, 3, 5-8, 13, 17, and 20-23 per a teleconference between Mr. Santarelli and the Examiner on 17 July 2003. In light of the following, all of the claims as amended are now in condition for allowance.

Rejection of Claims 1-2, and 4 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) In view of U.S. Patent 5,051,917 to Gould

Claim 1

Claim 1 as amended recites an integrated circuit including functional-circuit blocks each having a respective boundary that surrounds the block, a region disposed outside of the boundaries and devoid of functional-circuit blocks, and a transistor disposed in the region.

For example, referring, e.g., to FIG. 1 of the patent application, an integrated circuit 10 includes functional circuit blocks 12 each having a respective boundary (the solid line that defines each block 12) that surrounds the block, a region (the portion of the region 14 located outside of the blocks 12) disposed outside of the boundaries and devoid of functional-circuit blocks, and an array 18 of one or more transistors disposed in the region.

Conversely, referring, e.g., to Gould's FIG. 6, Gould does not disclose or suggest a transistor disposed in a region outside of the boundaries of functional-circuit blocks. Specifically, Gould's FIG. 6 discloses cells 22, 54, 56, and 58 having contiguous boundaries 18 (FIG. 2). Consequently, although a transistor disposed in the block 54 is outside the boundaries 18 of the blocks 22 and 56, it is within, not outside of, the boundary 18 of the block 54.

Rejection of Claims 7-10 and 17-23 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) In view of Gould

Claim 7

Claim 7 as amended is patentable for reasons similar to those discussed above in support of the patentability of claim 1.

Claim 8

Claim 8 as amended is patentable for reasons similar to those discussed above in support of the patentability of claim 1.

Claim 17

Claim 17 is patentable for reasons similar to those discussed above in support of the patentability of claim 1.

Claim 20

Claim 20 is patentable for reasons similar to those discussed above in support of the patentability of claim 1.

Claim 21

Claim 21 as amended is patentable for reasons similar to those discussed above in support of the patentability of claim 1.

Rejection of Claims 13-16 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) In view of Gould and U.S. Patent 6,414,518 to Patel

Claim 13

Because Patel, like Gould, does not disclose or suggest a transistor disposed in a region between and outside the boundaries of functional-circuit blocks, claim 13 as amended is patentable for reasons similar to those discussed above in support of the patentability of claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3, 5, and 6

The Applicant's attorney has represented claims 3, 5, and 6 in independent form based on the Examiner's assertion that such claims are allowable.

Claims 11-12

Claims 11 and 12 are allowed.

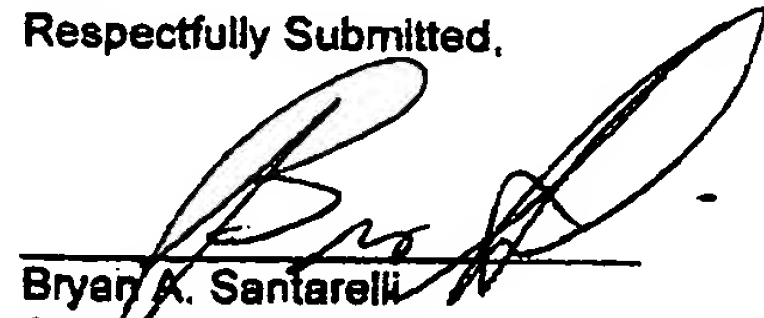
Conclusion

In light of the foregoing and in addition to allow d claims 11-12, claims 2, 4, 9-12, 15-16, and 18-19 as previously p nding and claims 1, 3, 5-8, 13, 17, and 20-23 as amended are in condition for allowance, which is respectfully request d.

In the event additional fees are due as a result of this amendment, you are hereby authorized to charge such payment to Deposit Account No. 50-1078.

DATED this 24th day of July, 2003.

Respectfully Submitted,



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